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ABSTRACT

An annotated listing contains 35 basic reference materials on folklore. Following a discussion of the definition of folklore, citations are divided into the following categories: encyclopedias and dictionaries, national and regional encyclopedias and dictionaries, bibliographies, guides, indexes, and periodicals. The Library of Congress classification, bibliographic information, and a brief description are provided for each entry. Some sources are published in foreign languages only. Most materials cited were published between 1962 and 1980. (LP)

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REFERENCE SOURCES FOR FOLKLORE STUDIES

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## FOLKLORE REFERENCE SOURCES

Among the thousands of books about various aspects of folklore are hundreds that could be considered basic reference sources. Listed here are those that are useful enough to the librarians at the University of Arizona library to be included in the central reference collection, with a few added from the stacks.

Defining folklore is always a problem, mostly because finding a stopping place in the definition is almost impossible. When does folklore become culture? history? religion? anthropology? Does folklore include such subjects as the occult? witchcraft? astrology? Can folklore be limited to the recorded oral traditions of various cultures, or should music, dance, and costume be included? Obviously, there is a lot of overlap among all these subjects. The sources listed here are only those that deal with the oral tradition of folklore, including some legends and mythology, as it is recorded in books and periodicals.

Library of Congress classification numbers are included to help those persons in LC arranged libraries find these sources, and similar ones on nearby shelves.

## T- ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

A. GR Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore, and Symbols.  
35 Gertrude Jobes. New York : Scarecrow, 1961.  
T6

This 3 volume short-entry dictionary is simple to use and contains most answers to the who, what, where type questions about world folklore. The third volume is a subject index to the first two, containing a listing of deities and a table of mythological affiliations. This is a good place to find short answers about the esoteric details.

B. GR Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Myths and Legend. New York : Funk and Wagnall, 1949.

A gathering of articles of varying quality, this dictionary format, 2 volume work is not as detailed as Jobes (above), but treats some subjects in greater depth. Many of the entries are fascinatingly readable. (21 definitions of "Folklore" by 21 separate authors are included.) Very useful cross references are given to

C. RF Daniels Encyclopedia of Superstitions, Folklore, and the Occult Sciences. 4 vol. c1903 (reprint, Detroit : Gale, 1971)

This old 4 volume source contains the answers to some folklore questions not found in the other encyclopedias, especially those dealing with popular superstitions. There is broad subject arrangement, with a short entry index in the third volume.

D. GR Enzyklopädie des Marchens. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter, 1977. 3 volumes and supplements.

E6

Up to date and complete listings and definitions of world folklore, folklorists, terms, and motifs. Long bibliographies accompany the concise articles. In German.

E. GR An Encyclopedia of Fairies (Hobgoblins, Brownies, Bogies, and other Supernatural Creatures). New York : Pantheon, 1976.

A fun-to read, dictionary format source, this is the place to find out where your grandmother came up with her name for what you know as goblins. It often includes complete folktales to illustrate the character entries.

F. GR Popular Belief and Superstitions: a Compendium of American Folklore. Anna Casetta, et.al. Boston : G.K. Hall, 1981.

P82

36,209 popular superstitions are here compiled, taken from a collection in Ohio. A form is provided for you to contribute your own mild phobias. The index (v. 3) provides good access to the broad subject arrangement of this work.

G. GR Dictionary of Imaginary Places. Alberto Manguel. New York : MacMillan, 1980.

G8

Alphabetical listings of places that appear in folklore, mythology, and fiction (such as Oz and Pepperland) are given entertaining write-ups in this gazeteer.

H. RG A Dictionary of Medical Folklore. Carol Anne Rinzier.  
81 New York : Crowell, 1979.  
A2  
R56 An entertaining, straightforward source which can  
answer a lot of commonly asked questions. Indexed. Yes,  
there is an entry under "chicken soup".

I. GR Bestiare Fabuleux. Jean Paul Clebert. Paris : A.  
825 Michel, 1971.  
C483

All the fabulous beasts you've ever wanted to know  
about are here defined. Where they come from and  
descriptions are included. In French.

J. National and Regional Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.  
There are many of these. Here are a few:

1. GR A Dictionary of British Folk-tales. Katherine M.  
141 Briggs. London : Routledge and Kegan, 1970. 4 vol.  
B69 Includes plot summaries and historical tracings of  
each tale.

2. GR Handwörterbcher zur Deutschen Volkskunde. Berlin :  
166 Walter de Gruyter, 1927. 12 vol.  
B25 All types of German folklore is treated in this  
massive 12 volume work in German.

3. GR Diccionario Folklorico Argentino. Buenos Aires : El  
133 Ateneo, 1948, 1950.  
A7 Terms, characters, and tales are explained in this  
one volume work in Spanish.

4. GR Diccionario Folklorico Brasiliense. Rio de Janeiro :  
133 Instituto Nacional, 1962.  
B3 C7 Like above, in Portuguese.

5. GR A Handbook of Irish Folklore. Sean O'Suilleabhain.  
146 London : Herbert Jenkins, 1942 (reprint, 1963).  
06 Arranged for browsing under large general headings,  
the table of contents is the only index.

## II- BIBLIOGRAPHY

These are sources aimed specifically at Folklore. Other, more general sources also cover the subjects well. Patterson's Literary Research Guide is especially good for finding sources about the literature of folklore. Most of these bibliographies cover American folklore; there are bibliographies of varying quality for many other cultures.

A. Z Cleveland Public Library Catalog of Folklore, Folklife, and Folksongs. 2nd ed. Boston : G.K. Hall, 1978.  
5985 CS

Three large volumes of printed catalog cards from a special collection.

B. Z Folklore, a Study and Resource Guide. Brunvand. New York : St. Martin's, 1976.  
5981 B78

An essay bibliography of reference sources about folklore, this has good annotations and comparisons of the sources it covers. Coverage is spotty, however.

C. Z A Bibliography of North American Folklore and Folksong. Charles A. Haywood. New York : Dover, c1951.  
5984 B5  
H3

Dated but still useful, Haywood is noted for its attention to North American Indian Lore. Folktales are elaborately classified by types and areas and extensive, unannotated bibliographies are included. The very necessary index in volume 2 provides access by author, title, and subject.

D. Z American Folklore, a Bibliography, 1950-1974. Flanagan. Metuchen, N.J. : Scarecrow, 1971.  
5984 U6  
F55

Mostly a simple list of 3600 books and periodical articles arranged by subject, with short annotations. Very selective, indexed.

E. Z Afro-American Folk Culture. Szwed and Abrahams. Philadelphia : Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1977.  
5984 A44  
S95

Part I covers North America, listing bibliographies, general sources, and geographically specific sources. Part II includes listings for the West Indies, Central, and South America by area. There are indexes in each volume but the subject headings are broad, making this

F. Z      Bibliography of Canadian Folklore in English. Fowke and  
5984      Carpenter. Toronto : University of Toronto, 1981.

C35  
F68

Arranged by type of materials and indexed only by authors and titles, this needs easier access. No annotations.

G. Z      Annotated Bibliography of Chicano Folklore from the Southwestern United States. Michael Heisley. Los Angeles : University of California, 1977.

U6  
H45

Lists and annotates over 1000 reference sources.

### III- CLASSIFICATION, GUIDES

A. PN      The Folktale. Stith Thompson. New York : Dryden  
1001      Press, 1946.

TS

Unfortunately outdated in its bibliographies, this is still an excellent introduction to the problems of Folklore study. The easy, chatty style makes for good reading. Thompson includes N. American Indian tales and sources.

B. GR      The Types of Folktale. Stith Thompson. Helsinki :  
1      Folklore Fellows, 1961.

F55  
#184

Antti Aarne invented the "Finnish Method" for classifying folktales. Stories are reduced to outlines and each aspect of the plot is analyzed. The tales are then plotted geographically and (when possible) chronologically; from this information the first place of origin of the tale can be deduced, and the original plot. Subsequent versions are classed under this basic plot. Translated and enlarged by Stith Thompson, and printed in Folklore Fellows Communication, 1961, this includes cross-references to his motif index (see below). This source is very useful for tracing the history of a folktale as well as for locating different versions of the old favorites.

#### IV- INDEXES

Included here are several kinds of indexes: to find folktales in collections, to find folktales by motifs, and periodical indexes to find articles about folklore. Again, more general indexes are also useful, most notably the MLA bibliography.

A. Z Index to Fairytales, Myths, and Legends. Eastman (1926-49)  
5983 Ireland (1950-1977). Westwood, Mass. : Faxon.  
F17  
1732 A straightforward index to tales, by title, listing where they appear in collections.

B. GR Motif Index of Folk Literature. Stith Thompson. 6 vol.  
67 Bloomington, Indiana : Indiana University, 1955-8.  
T52 This very complete work gives access to tales of which you can only remember part. Five volumes of subject-arranged tales are indexed in the sixth volume. Specific subjects can be browsed quickly. Thompson includes the oral tradition of myths, legends, and miscellaneous narratives, and loses only a little by being so dated.

C. GR The Storyteller's Sourcebook. Margaret Read MacDonald.  
74.6 Detroit : Gale, 1982.  
M3 A condensed, newer work like the Motif Index, this is very popular in smaller libraries, and very useful to children's librarians for finding stories for story time on specific subjects.

D. Z Folklore: an Annotated Bibliography and Index to Single Editions. Else B. Ziegler. Weston, Mass. : Faxon, 1973.  
5981 253 This combines the motif index with an index to collections. Unfortunately, it is very short. Excellent arrangement provides easy, quick access.

E. GR Abstracts of Folklore Studies. 1963-1975. Austin, Texas :  
1 American Folklore Society.  
A52 This was a quarterly selection of articles about folklore from journals. Approximately 300 citations were in each issue of articles about music, general country life, cooking, ethnic groups, linguistics, etc. in addition to "straight" folklore. All of this has

F. Z American Folklore Films and Videotapes. New York :  
5984 Bowker, 1976.  
VS  
C45 Vol. 1 is an index, and Vol. 2 a catalog (with descriptions and illustrations). A subject index and list of distributors are included.

#### V- PERIODICALS

There are hundreds of folklore periodicals worldwide. They range from the popular (*Foxfire*) to the scholarly. Some are listed here, chosen for their worldwide or large area coverage. Browse the shelves in the GR1 area for other regional magazines.

A. GR Folklore. London : The Folklore Society.  
1  
FS Two issues per year of about 130 pages each cover worldwide folklore. Very prestigious, this has been published since the 1880s.

B. GR Journal of the Folklore Institute. Bloomington, Indiana.  
1  
J87 Scholarly, worldwide coverage of folklore in three issues per year. Approximately 150 p. per issue.

C. GR Fabula. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter.  
1  
F25 A trilingual (German, English, and French) journal covering worldwide folklore in a scholarly way, this is issued twice per year with about 200 pages per issue.

D. GR Journal of American Folklore. Washington, D.C. :  
1  
J8 American Folklore Society.  
North American coverage. 4 issues per year of about 120 p.

E. GR Asian Folklore Studies. Nagoya, Japan : Nanzan Univ.  
330  
FE Covers anything related to folklore and folk music in Asia. Two 300 page issues per year.

F. GR Journal of Latin American Lore. Los Angeles : UCLA Latin American Center.  
1  
J85 Two 125 p. issues per year.

